MSOE Pioneered in Early Milwaukee Broadcasting

Since its beginning in 1897, when Marconi sent his "wireless" signal a distance of nine miles, amateur radio has contributed to many discoveries and breakthroughs in radio communications. Many of these new techniques were used in the early experimental commercial broadcast stations. The Milwaukee School of Engineering, and other colleges in Wisconsin contributed much to the early life of radio in this area.

The University of Wisconsin experimental station at Madison, later known as WHA, had sent music over the air waves as early as 1917. The Milwaukee School of Engineering, founded by Oscar Werwath, had students build crystal sets as early as 1903 when the school was located on Winnebago street. Later, a large Marconi wireless station was installed near the School with the antenna between two tall chimneys of the neighboring Pabst brewery.

In 1911, at the twenty-fifth anniversary program of the Milwaukee Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, a 25-foot model of a Zeppelin dirigible was controlled in a flight around the Auditorium by a remotely controlled wireless device which the School of Engineering developed.

June 30, 1922 saw the birth of WHAD at Marquette University. The station had begun in the physics laboratory of Prof. John B. Kramer in 1921 as an experiment in wireless communication. Hot on their heels, WIAO went on the air from the School of Engineering building, 418 Marshall street (old number) on July 22, 1922. Programming at the start was irregular.

These early stations were not without trouble as a clipping from the December 4, 1923 edition of the Milwaukee Journal indicated; "WCAY (Milwaukee's first station) continues to have misfortunes in operation and is on the air only intermittently and then with unsatisfactory results. WIAO is still laid up with a general breaking down of the set."

WHAD left the air about midyear, 1924, to rebuild its transmitter for a power increase to 500 watts. WIAO, the only other station save WCAY, changed its call letters to WSOE in September. This was the first significant call in Milwaukee, the letters SOE standing, of course, for School of Engineering.

In 1925, an off-beat religious organization came into the Milwaukee radio picture for a second time. The community at Zion, Ill., headed by Wilbur G. Voliva, sold the powerful (by 1925 standards) transmitter of their station WCBD to the School of Engineering which installed it in mid-summer on its new building at Jackson and Wells streets and thereby increased the coverage of WSOE materially.

The Wisconsin News, which had begun part-time programming of the station a year before, took over the complete job when the new transmitter went into service. Early in 1928, the owners of the Wisconsin News bought WSOE and changed the call letters to WISN. WISN was later bought up by Hearst Radio, Inc., which subsequently purchased WHAD from Marquette University.

Material for this article was gleaned from the radio club files and is part of an article from the Historical Messenger of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, by Lewis W. Herzog, December, 1955.

In the future, this column will contain material dealing with the history of the radio club (originally licensed as 9SO) whose call is now W9HHX, as well as notes from the operating table; including an article about amateur radio-teletype, special club activities, information on how you can send messages home free of charge, and unusual events in amateur radio. Until then,

73 (best regards)

Al Bingenheimer, WA9RYO
Secretary, W9HHX

DORM QUOTES –

(Continued from page 3)

"Has anyone got a 'Variac'? The 138 volts in this place is popping the tubes in my amp like they were popcorn."

"Can I borrow it? I want to see if the hand dryer I got out of the bathroom still works."

"Has anyone got a dime I can borrow for a phone call?"

"I don't. Why don't you go down to the main desk and just tell them you lost your money in the Coke machine?"

"Who was the wise nut that hit the cop car with a snowball?"

"Must have been someone from our floor but what I want to know is who went through all that trouble to tromp that note out in the snow."

"Boy! They really must love him, don't they!"

"Hey, doesn't anyone in this place have any pride?!?"

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT –

(Continued from page 1)

Europe. In return for his or her work, the student will receive his or her room and board, plus a wage. However, students should keep in mind that they will be working on the European economy and wages will naturally be scaled accordingly. The working conditions (hours, safety, regulations, legal protection, work permits) will be strictly controlled by the labor ministries of the countries involved.

In most cases, the employers have requested especially for American students. Hence, they are particularly interested in the student and want to make the work as interesting as possible.

They are all informed of the intent of the program, and will help the student all they can in deriving the most from his trip to Europe.

Please write for further information and and application forms to: American-European Student-Service, Box 34 733, FL 9490 Vaduz, Liechtenstein (Europe).

Circle K Helps Santa Claus

On December 17, members of the MSOE Circle K Club were very proud to have been chosen to escort Santa Claus to Saint Mary's Hospital.

One could not explain the amount of joy that was brought into the children's hearts when Santa greeted them with friendly hellos and gifts of all kinds. Each member of Circle K was happy, too, because Circle K is devoted to helping others. When we make people happy we in turn make ourselves happy.

It did not end at Saint Mary's, however. Santa had some gifts left. They were taken to Children's Hospital where they will be distributed as needed.

If you like to make others happy and at the same time make yourself happy, come and see us at 4:00 PM in room C-31 on Thursdays.

Kappa Eta Kappa

Two of Kappa Eta Kappa's pledges, Ken Pinter and Jim Finley, worked hard to prepare for Hell Night, Friday, January 13. This proved to be an interesting night for the two pledges and seventeen active members.

After having a crowded but enjoyable hay ride, many members are anxiously awaiting the toboggan party on January 28. Many probably will be sitting on their knees instead of the way they should the following week.

Coast Guard Invites College Seniors to Apply

College seniors or graduates can fulfill their military obligation as officers in the U.S. Coast Guard. Qualified applicants are notified of selection for Officer Candidate School before they enlist.

OCS classes convene in September and and February at the Coast Guard Reserve Training Center in historic Yorktown, Virginia. There the carefully selected college graduates receive 17 weeks of intensive, highly specialized training. Upon graduation they are commissioned as ensigns in the Coast Guard Reserve and serve on active duty for three years. Those qualified may be offered flight training.

Coast Guard officers receive the same pay and benefits as officers of other Armed Forces. Included are 30 days of annual leave and free medical and dental care.

Peacetime duties of the Coast Guard include law enforcement, search and rescue, oceanographic research, marine safety, and the maintenance of aids to navigation.

Information on the U.S. Coast Guard Officer Candidate School may be obtained from Commandant (PTP-2), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C. 20226 or the nearest Coast Guard Recruiter.